

HEICS IV Update

March 1, 2006

The National Work Group (NWG) had another productive meeting on February 22 and 23 at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC. All 20 NWG members participated in the meeting, along with all the *Ex Officio* organizations. Highlights of the meeting included:

- NIMS compliance for hospitals was discussed with our *Ex Officio* colleagues from Department of Homeland Security/NIMS Integration Center (NIC), Emergency Management Institute, and Health and Human Services (HHS)/Health Resources and Services Administration. As a result of this conversation the following will happen:
 - A letter will be sent by the NWG with comments on the proposed draft to the NIC and HHS, reiterating the importance of cost effective, practical, and beneficial expectations being outlined, or else compliance will be problematic.
 - The revised draft outlining NIMS compliance for hospitals will be sent out via the American Hospital Association to their state hospital association Disaster Liaisons for review and comment and discussed at a teleconference later this week.
- Vendor advertisements concerning teaching HICS and concerns about truth in advertising were discussed. The EMSA web page will no longer advertise or list instructors for HEICS pending the new program.
- Work on developing the new ICS 100 and 200 courses for hospitals is ongoing at EMI, in collaboration with this project. Completion is still on time for summer availability on line.
- A lengthy period of time was spent going over the more than 400 comments and suggestions received from the Secondary Review Group (SRG) on the Job Action Sheets (JAS). Modifications were made to selected JAS and the Incident Management Chart (no longer referred to as an organization chart).
- The forms and logs for the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) were reviewed a second time and revised further. They will be sent out to the SRG for comments this week.
- The HICS Implementation Manual draft was reviewed, and writing will continue and be completed in the next two weeks.
- Phase II will include finishing the Planning and Response Guides as well as developing the education strategy for HICS. Phase II will begin April 1 and end July 31. Discussion reaffirmed that no HICS material will be released until all aspects of the project have been completed. Two more meetings and several teleconferences are anticipated as part of this phase.
- There was discussion of the information about HEICS IV to be shared at the NDMS Conference. It was agreed that an overview on the process used for the project, general system design features, and general discussion on the deliverables will be presented.

The meeting was felt to be very productive by everyone attending as the members continue to bond as a group and build a consensus driven set of deliverables. The next meeting date has not been finalized, but consideration is being given to holding it at the end of the NDMS Conference.